

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/023,291 filed on December 14, 2001, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, and the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is hereby claimed. This application further claims the benefit of the priority date of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/258,179, filed on December 22, 2000, entitled "Hydrogen Resistant Low Water Peak Optical Waveguide Fiber and Method of Manufacturing Same", and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/272,015, filed February 28, 2001, entitled "Low Water Peak Optical Waveguide Fiber".